



# Lesson Nine

## God Chooses Samuel

### Heart Preparation & Bible Background

In this lesson, we move from the book of Genesis to 1 Samuel, skipping over centuries of covenant history. God had fulfilled his promise to give a land to the descendants of Abraham and multiply his people. Now living in Canaan, the Israelites certainly enjoyed the Promised Land and the benefits of God's loving protection and provision, but they were not faithful to God's covenant. They did not always believe his promises and cleave to him; instead, they wandered off time and again, choosing idols and their own sinful ways over the God of Israel.

Elkanah and his wife, Hannah, were a welcome exception, however. This godly couple rejoiced in the Lord and his salvation, choosing to trust and serve him. Hannah longed for a child, and prayed for a son whom she could dedicate to serve the Lord. And when God gave her Samuel, she faithfully surrendered him to the Lord as she had promised, taking him to Eli, the high priest at Shiloh.

As you read 1 Samuel 1–3, you will see that this lesson is much more than a story of godly parents and their longed-for child. It is about a sovereign and faithful God who preserved a family in the midst of ungodliness.

Little Samuel was raised in the tabernacle, the house of the Lord. Yet, right at the heart of this sanctuary, rampant corruption prevailed. Eli's sons willfully sinned against the Lord and disregarded their father, and Eli simply looked the other way. Miraculously, God protected Samuel in this setting, giving him a tender heart of faith. Samuel listened to Eli and to God, served in the tabernacle, and grew in trust and obedience.

In preparation for Sunday's lesson, consider each precious child in your class. Commit yourself to be God's instrument as you pray for each one, as you teach them God's Word and as you show them Jesus. When you pray, ask the Lord to give you and them tender hearts that are responsive to him—hearts that are ready to listen to his Word and willing to trust and obey him.



#### Bible Truth

*When God called, Samuel listened and obeyed.*

#### Scripture

*1 Samuel 1–3*



#### Lesson Focus

*To grow in trust and obedience, as Samuel did.*

#### Goals for the Children

- Tell that Samuel heard and obeyed God's call.
- Learn that God wants them to trust and obey his Word.
- Learn that God makes it possible for them to serve him.



#### Memory Minute

*The LORD was with Samuel as he grew up.*

*1 Samuel 3:19a*



## ☆Let's Talk

**SAY** When Samuel was a young boy, his mother, Hannah, took him to live with Eli the priest so he could love and serve God in the house of the Lord. One night, Samuel was lying in bed when he heard someone call his name.

**ASK** *What happened when Samuel heard his name called?*

**SAY** Samuel got up and ran to Eli, but the old priest had not called him. It was the Lord who was calling Samuel! Eli told Samuel to listen for God's voice. Again God called his name. Samuel answered, "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening." Samuel listened carefully as God spoke to him. God had chosen Samuel to belong to him and serve him. The next morning, he told Eli everything the Lord said.

**ASK** *Did Samuel obey God's call?*

**SAY** Samuel obeyed God's call. He served God because God was with him and gave him the power to do so. When he grew up, Samuel began to lead God's people back to the Lord and his Word.

## ☆Let's Listen and Obey

Play *The Bible Says*, which is like *Simon Says*. The children may do the actions below only if you say "*The Bible says . . .*" before each command.

- *The Bible says* God keeps his promises. High-five your friend next to you.
- Hop on one foot.
- Wiggle your fingers. Now pat your head.
- *The Bible says* God watches over you. Reach up high and turn around.
- *The Bible says* God calls you to serve him. Open your hands, palms facing up.
- Cover your ears with your hands.
- *The Bible says* trust and obey Jesus. Open your hands as a book.

## ☆Let's Whisper a Prayer

Invite everyone to whisper this prayer together.

Dear God, help me grow in trusting and obeying you.  
In Jesus' name, Amen.



**Samuel heard God calling his name.**

1 Samuel 3